

D 21155 STATE, CALCUTTA, DESP #331  
INDIA/WEST BENGAL 19 NOV 54  
DEATH OF DEBEN DE, CHIEF WHIP AND  
DEPUTY MINISTER WEST BENGAL

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4/12/54-7-0

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ICB LD/....  
NE LY ... FD ... CO 1... DIR  
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OIS GR ... TSS ... REP  
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AIR FORCE  
PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

## FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

791.00/11-1954  
D121155

FROM : AMCONSUL, Calcutta, India.

331  
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 19, 1954.  
DATE

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	INFO OTHER
64	NEA-4 11-24	CIA-7 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-3 USIA-10

SUBJECT: Death of Deben DE, Chief Whip and Deputy Minister,  
West Bengal.

ORAL

Deben DE, Deputy Minister for Parliamentary Affairs in the West Bengal cabinet and Chief Whip of the Congress legislative party, died on November 1, 1954 from injuries received in an automobile accident which occurred when the car he was driving crashed into a guard house of a railway crossing near Calcutta. The other occupants of the car, who included Sashi KHAN, a Congress MLA from Nadia District, were killed immediately.

Deben De had been active for many years as a revolutionary and agitator, but he was a new-comer to parliamentary politics. He was born in 1905 and joined the Independence movement while a student. His revolutionary activities included 7 years of underground life, 4 of which were spent in Singapore, and 12 years in jail. In the late thirties he joined Congress, gradually working his way up to become Secretary of the important Central Calcutta Congress Committee. He has also been a member of the AICC.

De's death is a serious personal loss to Dr. B. C. ROY and a setback to Congress. He rose rapidly in the Congress hierarchy once he joined the party and was considered the boss of Central Calcutta. He was a protege of Dr. B. C. Roy and the latter's hatchet-man and principal assistant in the Legislative Assembly. His death removes one of the more active and energetic members of Congress in West Bengal.

Approved:

R. Borden Reams  
American Consul GeneralL. Douglas Heck  
American Consul

Copies to: New Delhi, Bombay and Madras.

LDHeck/dmt  
REPORTER

UNCLASSIFIED

INFORMATION COPY

Retain in divisional files or destroy in accordance with security regulations.